AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1915, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 31, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1232 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1934 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 24, NO. 47

"The freest government cannot endure when the fundamental law is to create a rapid accumulation of property in the hands of a few for remote masses poor and dependent."

— 2 —

Editorial

Increased Purchasing Power of Labor

Congress declared that one of the underlying purposes of the National Industrial Recovery Act was to aid in lifting us out of the depression by increasing the wages of working men and women, and thus increase the purchasing power of the masses. There is a tendency in certain labor quarters to insist that higher wages alone will accomplish this purpose. This is only true provided the cost of living remains static.

The workers' cost of living is made up of the commodities and services which business and professional men own and sell for a profit. These commodities and services run all the way from salt, sugar and flour to rent, doctors' and dentists' bills, electricity and transportation.

It is apparent that increased money wages do not increase the workers' purchasing power if those who own these essential commodities raise the prices of them sufficiently to chisel away the advantages of higher pay. Under such conditions larger wages do not raise the living standards of those who have jobs, nor provide work for any of our unemployed millions. Because of these negations, higher wages when accompanied by proportional price boosts contribute nothing toward ending the depression and bringing about recovery.

Inasmuch as our unemployed army remains static at between ten and eleven millions, it is more than ever clear that the only remedy for the depression, the only measure which will appreciably stimulate recovery, is a tremendous increase in the real purchasing power of the masses expressed in tremendously larger amounts of commodities and services which wages will buy.

This is why the American Federation of Labor's unemployment relief plan calls for the shorter work week, without decrease in the weekly earnings for those whose hours of labor are thus reduced, full-time employment for the millions of idle at the same weekly earnings, and increases in weekly earnings much in excess of the price boosts put over by those who own and control our manufacturing and retail industries and the service industries.

To sum up, the American Federation of Labor persistently reiterates that the large commodity price increases visioned by President Roosevelt and his advisers as elemental for recovery will be relatively valueless for this purpose unless the real wages of our millions of workers—wages expressed in purchasing power—are increased more rapidly than prices are raised.

The necessity of continually higher wages to cope and more than cope with higher living costs is one of the major reasons why the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions stress the importance of all workers enrolling in bona fide unions. Acting individually or in small groups, the workers are unable to protect themselves against price advances. The stronger the unions are, the more effective they will be as labor's protector against the economic servitude which many business leaders seem determined to apply to our industrial order.

A. F. OF L. BUSINESS SURVEY REVEALS A GROWING OPTIMISM

Equitable Distribution of Industrial Wealth Produced Necessary To Buying Capacity; Production Is 42 Per Cent Below 1929 Average.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The "Monthly Survey of Business" for November, issued by the American Federation of Labor, from compilation of data by the Federation's capable Research Department, reveals a growing optimism in regard to recovery and some definite progress.

The following outstanding facts are related:

Looking Toward Better Times

"During the past month that powerful force which so often changes the course of business—confidence—has apparently turned toward optimism. The administration has sought cooperation of business men and bankers and has answered some of their chief worries by indications that it is not counting on currency inflation, changing the value of the dollar or extravagant Federal spending to bring recovery, but rather on increasing employment in profitable business enterprise. Business executives have responded with a definite effort to improve 'business sentiment' and thus encourage increased business activity.

"How far these efforts will succeed in stimulating business cannot be forecast. Upturns in several lines of production accompanied or preceded the change in business sentiment. Soft coal, steel, electric power, textiles, building construction have all started upward. Production as a whole is 42 per cent below the 1929 level.

Increase Workers' Buying Power

"The business world is in a better position to go ahead than at this time last year.

"In case private initiative is still unable to lift business out of depression, however, the President's aides are working on a nation-wide plan to increase production with the help of Federal guarantees and put men and women back to work in industry.

"In September we had 10,951,000 without work in industry. Business has devised no plan to give these men and women their normal jobs in productive work. The strong wing of business optimism may stimulate industry to action again, but production and employment cannot go on increasing unless a steady increase in workers' buying power creates a growing market for goods.

Workers Must Organize

"If income goes to the workers it is all spent for industry's products and services; if income goes to the highest group nearly half goes to increase industrial capacity, to other investment or to speculate on the stock market.

"Before 1929 large sums of such investments had created an abundance of financial capital out of which our industries had built up huge producing capacity. In 1929 we produced $70,000,000,000 worth of commodities and services, but we were equipped to produce $86,000,000,000 worth. Even in 1929 we had idle capacity, because we lacked consuming power. We could have had enough consuming power if we had raised all incomes below $2,500 a year up to the $2,500 level. Because producing power was not balanced by consuming power our top heavy capital structure collapsed and plunged us into five years of depression.

"Since 1929 the workers' share in our national income has declined. From 1929 to 1932 wage earners' income declined 60 per cent, the income of 'entrepreneurs' 45 per cent and property income 30 per cent. Workers must recover these losses by increased wages in the ratio the national income as production rises.

"The National Recovery Act declares it to be the policy of Congress: To increase consumption of industrial and agricultural products by increasing purchasing power. To do it we must establish industrial controls as provided in the Act: (1) Workers must be organized so that they can claim their share of industry's gains income; Section 7-A of the Recovery Act must be strengthened to assure them their lawful right to organize. (2) Workers must be represented on the governing bodies of industry so that their influence may be felt in the control table and they will not be forced to industrial strife to get a hearing."

DILLON RENEWS EXTENSIVE DRIVE TO ORGANIZE AUTOMOBILE WORKERS

Organization of Balance of Workers In the Industry Is Goal; Addresses Many General Motors Employes At Flint.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—Renewal of the intensive drive for organization of the balance of workers in the automobile industry is now reported as well under way.

With over a hundred local unions already chartered in the industry, complete organization is said to be the goal of the present drive, which is in charge of F. J. Dillon, A. F. of L. organizer in charge of the Detroit office.

It is understood that committees are active in automobile production communities, in most of which Automobile Workers' Federal Unions are already flourishing.

Speaks At Flint

With the cooperation of Al. Cook, president of Automobile Workers' Federal Union No. 18531, and others, a big meeting was recently arranged at Flint, Mich., the Generals Motors stronghold.

Employes from Buick, Chevrolet, Fisher Body and A. C. Spark Plug plants attended the meeting, which completely filled the large auditorium of the Fenzelly building.

Other meetings are being planned, while the details of actual organization are reported as being followed through in a practical manner.

HOUSING ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES STIMULATED

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington. — "Coordination of all leading operations by the Federal Government is bound to further stimulate the operations of the Federal Housing Administration under Title I, dealing with modernization, and Titles II and III, dealing with new construction and insured long-term mortgages," according to James A. Moffett, Federal Housing Administrator.

"The Federal Housing Administration's record to date," he continued, "show a rapidly increasing interest and activity in the mutual mortgage insurance plan which will assume large volume a period of at least 20 years, as well as under the modernization plan.

"Increased confidence and activities are reaching the Housing Administration regarding the building boom ahead, and the refinancing of the mortgages on their present homes under the insured mortgage plan authorized by Title II of the National Housing Act.

"Local campaign committees are working in every city and state throughout the United States. They are making house-to-house canvases and report daily increased in pledges by home owners and business men to repair their properties under Title I.

"We are gratified with the response and attitude of financial institutions. With their full cooperation we will realize our objective in the revival of the building industry."

"Men of industry and finance who have talked with me have told me they believe the Federal Act will be the means of releasing private capital and the unemployed in industry. Producers of manufacturers and distributors for whom this season of the year is a slack one, and whose products are necessary in home modernization and construction, say that they have been running overtime for as long as three months."

Adamant Employer Agrees to Mediation

Hearing Before Regional Labor Board Results in Agreement by Battery Company to Mediate.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Chicago.—After refusing for 15 months to recognize Federal Union No. 18633, or even to enter into negotiations with it, the National Battery Company of Chicago Heights, finally agreed to the mediation of Executive Director Moffly, of the Chicago Regional Labor Board. This agreement was reached after a long hearing before the board, where evidence was presented showing a consistent course of discrimination, intimidation and coercion, as flagrant as any presented to the board since the complaint involving the Chicago Motor Coach Company.

According to the testimony of Lee Killion, president of Federal Union No. 18633, the company did not hesitate to attempt bribery, and even invasion of Killion's home. More than 20 union men, who had been rehired year after year, were rejected for re-employment at the beginning of the busy season this year on the alleged grounds of medical excuses, which had never been thought up in preceding years.

At the close of the afternoon hearing on November 5, the Labor Board, consisting of Dean Spencer, chairman; John Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Warren Jones, insisted that the company consent to mediation of the board's Executive Director McCarthy, who is charged with the enforcement of Section 7-A, insofar as the board is concerned, is making an investigation of the National Battery Company plant at Chicago Heights, and the union hopes for a speedy settlement.

CCC Camps Enroll 340,000 for Winter

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, stated that the Civilian Conservation Corps forest camp program for the winter provides for the organization of 1,728 camps, the same number that was in operation during the latter part of the 1933-34 season, which ended September 30. Of the total number of camps, 72 will be operated by Indians on Indian reservations and 15 will be located in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska.

The enrolled forest camp personnel, including young men, war veterans, woodsmen, Indians and residents of Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico, will be maintained at an average of approximately 340,000 men.

ALUMINUM WORKERS MAKE FURTHER GAINS

New Agreement Secured With Aluminum Products Company; Other Negotiations Reported As Progressing.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Chicago.—The Aluminum Products Company, one of the important manufacturers in the aluminum industry, has entered into an agreement with the Aluminum Workers' Union, No. 19604 and Aluminum Workers' Union No. 19078, covering the plants of the company in La Grange and Lemont, Ill.

Extended negotiations between the union and the company, which have been carried on under the personal supervision of President A. R. Buller, of the Aluminum Workers' Council, have resulted in a general readjustment of wages, which netted an increase of between 2 and 12½ per cent. The agreement will remain in effect until April, 1935, and may be modified on 15 days' notice.

Information has been reported in negotiations between the Aluminum Workers' Unions in Wisconsin and the Aluminum Goods Company.

Most Court Actions Favorable to NRA

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—During the period September 15-November 1, 1934, there were 73 Federal court actions in cases in which the NRA Litigation Division appeared as counsel, and in all but six cases the action was favorable to the Government. That is nearly three times as many actions as during the immediately preceding six-weeks' period and continues the proportion of favorable decisions above 90 per cent.

The NRA Litigation Division was created March 26, 1934, it has docketed 662 cases. In 100 cases now pending in courts against violators the division is appearing for the prosecution, and in 11 cases it is defending suits brought against enforcement agencies. There have been 189 cases closed, either by final court action, by adjustment and settlement out of court, by dismissal, or otherwise.

One hundred and twenty-nine court actions have been obtained, of which all but 10 have upheld the Government's case.

M'DONOUGH ASKS SUPPORT FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Michael J. McDonough, president of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, has issued a call formally asking the 1,500,000 members of building crafts to support the home mortgage program of the Federal Housing Administration.

"It is a new deal and a square deal for borrower and lender," Mr. McDonough said, adding:

"Specifically, we can help by breaking down the archaic belief that construction is not feasible or practical in the winter months. Modern methods, modern materials make construction in most of the United States as easy and cheap in winter as in the warmer months. There is no real reason why in some areas of the United States needed construction be delayed until spring.

"As a matter of cold fact, there is a real advantage in building now, for the costs are lower than they will be later, be when building gets into its full swing in the spring."

Code Effective for Builders' Supplies

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.A new code for the builders' supplies trade, to supersede the code which was in operation since October 1, 1933, became effective November 5, affecting approximately 50,000 workers and firms doing an annual business amounting to $140,000,000.

No change is made in the code amount to rewriting it to conform with NRA policies evolved from the experience of more than a year of code administration, Col. John B. Rose, of New York, chairman of the Code Authority, has hailed the new code as marking a change from "the uncertain experimental stage to one of stability and permanent activity."

The new code creates coordination boards to attempt adjustment of jurisdictional disputes.

No changes made in the code affecting minimum wage rate for other employes, which is 35 to 50 cents an hour, depending on region and population. Working time of watchmen, formerly unregulated, is now limited to 13 days out of 14. The basic maximum work week remains unchanged at 40 hours, with exceptions for executives, dealers in small towns, and yard foremen, truck drivers and helpers.

"REINSTATE STRIKERS," SAYS TEXTILE BOARD

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The Textile Labor Relations Board reports that complaints are still being received that textile manufacturers are refusing to rehire workers who participated in the recent strike.

The board demanded that mill owners live up to their promise to rehire strikers without prejudice. Other complaints are being received, it was said, because workers are being evicted from company houses.

It was announced:

"The board expects the industry to re-employ those who were in the mills before the strike without further delay and without discrimination."

GOLD MINERS ARE HOLDING FIRMLY IN CALIFORNIA LOCKOUT

General Motors Official Revealed As Dictating Company Policies; Aid Given.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Jackson, Calif.—Locked out by "Gold Trust" mines since the first of October, members of Mother Lode Miners' Union No. 48, of Jackson, are holding firm and over 100 new members have been added.

While the organization is protecting properties by manning pumps, not a production wheel has turned and not a pan has dipped in the sands of the union, it is stated, over 600 men being out.

It was revealed that John Thomas Smith, vice president and chief of the legal counsel of the General Motors Company, dictates the policies of the Amador mines. H. L. Kerwin, of the Conciliation Service, U. S. Department of Labor, is reported to have "gone over the heads of local officials, direct to Smith, in an effort to effect an adjustment."

In the meantime, figures released through the San Francisco Stock Market, show that the Argonaut Mining Company, Ltd., to be in a flourishing condition. Their profits for the first nine months of 1934 were $1.67 on each $5 share, compared with 16 cents per share last for the same period in 1933. Yet this concern persistently refused to pass on a small share of increased earnings to the men who go into the bowels of the earth and bring up the gold for their profits.

The San Francisco Labor Council has voted $1,000 to aid the families of the locked-out miners, and other labor organizations are reported to be rallying to their support.

FRANCIS BIDDLE HEADS LABOR RELATIONS BOARD; GETS DOWN TO ACTION

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Francis Biddle, prominent Philadelphia attorney, appointed as the new chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, has assumed his new duties and gotten down to business.

It is interesting to note that the oath of office was administered to Mr. Biddle by Samuel Compers, son of the late veteran president of the A. F. of L., who is chief clerk in the Department of Labor.

At his first press conference, Mr. Biddle indicated that speedy action will be taken by emergency decisions of the National Labor Relations Board, with assurance of definite cooperation from the Department of Justice.

He also indicated that the "majority rule," which has been invoked by labor long contended, as well as Section 7-A of the Recovery Act, will be vigorously enforced.

Marble Workers Vote A. F. of L. Affiliation

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Marble workers of Tennessee, of supreme importance in action of the producing division of the industry, are now organized into a bona-fide A. F. of L. union and have gained the right to represent all marble workers in this territory in collective bargaining with employers under the NRA code.

An incipient "company union" was decisively defeated in a vote of the workers held November 7, with 166 voting in favor of the regular A. F. of L. affiliated union to only 45 for the company-fostered organization. It is said that threats and intimidation kept the vote down, although there were ample brave men in the craft who could not be "bulldozed." The election was held under supervision of a representative of the National Labor Relations Board.

LABOR DISPUTES BILL EXPECTED TO PASS AT NEXT CONGRESS SESSION

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Senator Robert Wagner has stated that he will renew efforts to have his labor disputes bill pass at the next session of Congress. The measure originally introduced in the last Congress and was generally supported, although it failed of passage.

More extensive support for the bill, sufficient to make it a law, is now believed assured.

The Wagner bill would not only guarantee all workers the free right to organize for selection of representatives for collective bargaining but would actually ban some forms of "company unions" now existing. Labor generally is supporting the bill.

TO PUSH ORGANIZATION OF BIG STEEL INDUSTRY

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Following conferences in Washington last week between President William Green, of the A. F. of L., Michael F. Tighe, president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, and others interested, it is understood that fundamental plans have been completed and some work already started in the new drive to organize the big steel industry. Over 400,000 workers are in the industry, with interests closely allied, the success of the movement is said to depend by the last A. F. of L. convention in connection with mass production industries, is expected to be followed.

Federal Employes Highest Since 1918

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—According to a tabulation issued by the Civil Service Commission, there are now 770,784 Federal workers in the entire country, as compared with 691,116 in 1930, and 917,760 in 1918, the latter figure being the high record. Last month 5,000 were added in various sections of the country and 2,265 in the District of Columbia. Emergency employes make up the bulk of the increase.

Labor Wants to Cooperate Fully, But Demands Business Sincerity

U. S. Chamber of Commerce Denounces NRA and Proposed 30-Hour Week Statute, Then Issues Sugary Statements; President Green Replies.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The publicity agents of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce have been cluttering up the news service and newspaper offices throughout the country recently with many "hot releases." And they've made "pare one" with a bang on several occasions.

One recent release soundly denounced the NRA, declared that it should not be renewed upon expiration of the present law, and that a substitute, controlled by big business and with Section 7-A entirely eliminated, should be enacted. Another release purveyed the Chamber's "definite stand against the uniform 30-hour week, or any other limitation of hours by statutory methods." This was followed by one which complimented the Federal Housing Act, saying it "will go far if successful toward business recovery." Then came the prize release of all. It follows:

"Pledges Itself to Cooperate"

"The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, meeting today, adopted the following resolution:

"Since the last meeting of this board there is evidence of a growing determination by business, industry and agriculture to cooperate in every possible manner to promote an improvement in recovery from our existing economic conditions.

"Utterances by the President encourage the belief that he is fully conscious of this attitude and that he is receptive of suggestions for the promotion of the common welfare.

"Therefore, this Chamber pledges itself to cooperate to the fullest with all other organizations in an endeavor to reach a common agreement upon a program which will be fair and just to all and which will accelerate the efforts toward recovery. To that end, the president of the Chamber is authorized to appoint such committee or committees as he may deem wise and expedient.

"The committee or committees thus appointed are requested to report to the board at its next meeting or to the executive committee, if prompter action is necessary."

This was followed the next day with a release, announcing appointment by President Harriman of a committee of seven members of the Chamber's board of directors to "carry out the purpose" of the resolution to cooperate. The committee consists of:

Silas H. Strawn, chairman; Charles E. Bockus, Robert V. Fleming, William F. Gephart, P. W. Litchfield, Harper Sibley and Virgil L. Sweet.

President Green Replies

The case of organized labor with respect to these flowery utterances on the part of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce is contained in a statement issued by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Green says:

"The announced purpose of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to cooperate with the Government and the administration in the effort to promote economic recovery represents an 'about face' change in the previous policy of the organization. Therefore the United States Chamber of Commerce assumed a critical attitude approximating opposition to the national recovery policy pursued by the Government.

"In view of the previous attitude of business interests, labor cannot be blamed if it is skeptical as to the real degree of cooperation which these interests will give to the Government in the development of its New Deal policy.

"The primary purpose of the National Recovery Act was to develop a co-partnership relationship between the Government, industry and labor. In every step taken in the furtherance of the national recovery program, labor has cooperated to the fullest extent and to the greatest degree. Unfortunately, business interests as represented by the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, have refused to recognize the partnership of labor in the national recovery program. These interests have refused to agree to accord labor representation upon code authorities, have opposed the application of Section 7-A of the Industrial Recovery Act, which provides for collective bargaining and which is embodied in every industrial code of fair practice, and, unfortunately, business interests as represented by the United States Chamber of Commerce have discharged and discriminated against thousands of workers because they exercised their right under Section 7-A to join a labor union. In addition, the National Association of Manufacturers publicly declared that it is opposed to the basic decisions of the National Labor Relations Board and called upon all members of the National Association of Manufacturers to refuse to comply with the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board providing for majority representation. The steel manufacturers have threatened to institute court proceedings in an effort to prevent the application of the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board.

"While announcing publicly the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce to cooperate with the Government in the effort to accelerate national recovery, it denounces labor as unreasonable in its attitude and unfair in its demands. Before labor can accept the offer of the Chamber of Commerce to cooperate with the Government in the promotion of economic recovery, a sincere and genuine, it must publicly announce its willingness to comply with Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act as embodied in industrial codes of fair practice, and its willingness to abide by the decisions of duly constituted authorities, set up by Act of Congress for the purpose of promoting industrial peace, as represented by the National Labor Relations Board, the National Steel Relations Board and other boards of a similar character.

"Section 7-A and these boards were a part of the basic principles created by Act of Congress and established by the administration for the purpose of promoting economic recovery and labor and industry cooperation. There can be no cooperation on the part of any group until they are willing to recognize and abide by the governmental instrumentalities through which cooperation can be established.

"Labor accepts its full responsibility under the provisions of the National Recovery Act. It will cooperate fully in the effort to promote recovery. It recognizes its obligations to the fullest extent, will conform to the provisions of Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act, and will accept the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board providing for majority representation in collective bargaining processes.

"We challenge the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers to match this character of cooperation and to publicly announce their willingness to do so.

"Unless the Chamber of Commerce meets this challenge, it cannot expect their utterance as the voice of Jacob and the hand of Esau."

Convict Labor Goods Banned in 17 States

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Economically sound legislation providing for State use of convict labor goods and prohibiting the sale on the open market of prison goods manufactured in penal institutions exists in 17 States, according to the report of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the 1934 convention of the Federation.

"Forty-two State Legislatures will meet in January or later next year," the report said. "Strenuous efforts should be made to have those States that have not taken advantage of the Hawes-Cooper Convict Labor Act do so.

"The Hawes-Cooper Act provides that any convict-made goods shipped from one State into another shall come under the laws of the latter the same as if manufactured therein. Therefore, if a State Legislature enacts a law prohibiting the sale of the convict-made goods manufactured in the open market, no other State can sell its convict-made products in that State. This is very important, as much unemployment is caused by the sale of convict-made goods on the open market, particularly so in view of the fact that the Government now permits the NRA label to go on convict-made goods, which action we condemn as being injurious to free labor."

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOULD KILL RECOVERY

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—A lengthy manifesto has been issued by the work of a committee report to the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, in which it is urged that the National Industrial Recovery Act should not be re-enacted nor extended," upon its expiration June 16, 1935.

They would permit industry to work out codes to suit themselves, subject to Governmental approval or rejection, but not subject to change or continuous regulation. Section 7-A would be eliminated entirely in the Chamber's plan, which will be submitted to a referendum vote of the membership throughout the country in time for their lobbyists to get busy at the next session of Congress.

NEW DEAL ECONOMICS SUBJECT AT CONFERENCE

International Industrial Relations Institute Meet of Interest to Wage Earners.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—A comprehensive analysis and evaluation of New Deal economic policies and progress will be given by Wilson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Isador Lubin, Commissioner of Labor Statistics; David Cushman Coyle, of the Public Works Administration; Edwin S. Smith, member of the National Labor Relations Board, and other Government officials, economists and social scientists, was regarded as a major feature of the Regional Study Conference of the International Industrial Relations Institute, at the Russell Sage Foundation Building, 130 East Twenty-second Street, beginning Friday, November 23, and continuing through Saturday, November 24.

The conference, which was designed primarily for those concerned with or interested in social economic issues, is considering not only American problems but world problems as well, worldwide planning to end unemployment, economic security and raise standards of living.

Mary van Kleeck, director of industrial studies of the Russell Sage Foundation, and associate director of the International Industrial Relations Institute, is president of the conference, which is an outgrowth of the World Economic Congress, held in Amsterdam, Holland, under the auspices of the I. R. I. in 1931.

INTERSTATE CONFERENCE CONDEMNS CHILD LABOR

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Harrisburg, Pa.—At an Interstate Conference on Labor Comments held here November 16 and 17, child labor was roundly condemned and approval of the proposed Federal constitutional amendment urged.

Eleven Northeastern States were represented, with Charlotte E. Carr, director of Labor and Industry for Pennsylvania, the directing force of the meeting. Dr. W. M. Leiserson ably discussed unemployment insurance, and other important subjects were considered.

Corporations Plan Building Outlays

Best Indication of Confidence in Future, in Spite of Howling

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—Numerous companies are planning or have recently undertaken relatively important capital outlays on new buildings and facilities, according to the Standard Statistics Company.

This is accepted by organized labor to be a definite trend indicating renewed confidence in the future, in spite of much howling on the part of some firms who dislike to see their employes secure adequate compensation.

A list of companies which have undertaken since January 1, 1934, or which contemplate capital expenditures of more than $1,000,000, included the following:

Ford Motor Company	$15,500,000
Packard	2,300,000
Allied Chemical & Dye	5,000,000
American Cyanamid, Pittsburgh Plate Glass	7,000,000
E. I. duPont deNemours	15,000,000
Mathieson Alkali	2,000,000
Union Carbide & Carbon	10,500,000
Standard Brands	2,000,000
Hiram Walker-Gooderham & Worts	6,000,000
Union Oil of California	3,500,000
Socony-Vacuum Oil	5,000,000
Standard Oil of California	4,000,000
Calanese Corporation	1,000,000
National Steel	12,000,000
U. S. Steel	6,000,000
Wheeling Tube	2,500,000
Youngstown Sheet & Tube	8,500,000

DR. MYERS IS APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LABOR ADVISORY BOARD

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The NRA Labor Advisory Board announced the appointment of Dr. A. Howard Myers as executive director. Dr. Myers succeeds Dr. Gustav Peck, who resigned from the Labor Advisory Board to become assistant to the administrative officer on employment problems.

Miners' Strike May Develop in Wales

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Cardiff, Wales.—Fourteen days' notice was given on November 14 by miners of South Wales of the termination of contracts, with the understanding that if new conditions are not met a strike will result.

About 85,000 men, members of the South Wales Miners' Federation, would be involved.

DR. PECK WILL ASSIST ON EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The NIR Board has appointed Dr. Gustav Peck as assistant to the administrative officer on employment problems in codes and their administration. This appointment is in line with the board's policy of allotting specific problems to personnel well versed in the subjects assigned them.